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## LOCAL NEWS

### **A Son of the Soil Returns Home to Register an NGO in Sierra Leone**

By Morray Boima

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One of Sierra Leone's fine Medical Doctors in the Diaspora, the son of former Minister of Presidential Affairs, Dr. Shekou Sesay, has returned home to register a Non-governmental Organization he created together with his wife in the USA.



The Development Oriented Dr. Shekou Sesay

Dr Shekou M. Sesay, a Pediatric Physician and his wife Dr. Fatu Forna Sesay also a trained Physician in Obstetrics, Gynecology and Public Health, earlier this year created and actualized 'Mama-Pikin Foundation' in Lithonia, Georgia. Mama-Pikin Foundation has among other things as its goal, improving the health and wellbeing of women and children in Sierra Leone.

No doubt, Sierra Leone ranks highest in the world for both infant and maternal mortality. The health situation generally is horrendous. This horrific health situation goaded the duo to form this NGO which is currently in partner working relation with local communities to support their existing health structures, provide basic training to health workers on how to take care of pregnant women and lactating mothers, the provision of pure and potable water to communities etc.

The young but humane Dr Sesay returned home on the 2nd June 2008 from the US where he is currently working for a Children's Healthcare as a Pediatrician. He left home in 1995, and unlike others who would go and bask in the glories of the first world, Dr Sesay has judiciously utilized every minute of his stay in the West. In 2004 he accomplished his medical education

from the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia, followed by a Degree in Public Health. During his Pediatric training, Dr Sesay was opportune to work with the WHO in Geneva, Switzerland in 2006. The wealth of knowledge gained in Switzerland solidified his interest in Public Health. This interest is borne out of his belief that children are the substratum of any nation's development and therefore an environment must be created for their healthy and productive growth. To enhance his quest, which is the betterment of children, Dr Sesay is currently pursuing a Masters Degree in Public Health (MPH) at the Morehouse School of Medicine. His program has an affiliation with CARE International and he is presently based in Kabala doing a three- month intensive research on how to facilitate Home Management of Malaria (HMM). This program primarily seeks to empower communities, particularly women in tackling man's number one killer disease, malaria. HMM is a program that is in sync with the objectives of Mama-Pikin Foundation.

Dr Sesay hails from Mungor Bendugu, Kabala in the Northern District of Sierra Leone. He is the eldest of seven children, a brother and five sisters. He is married to a productive daughter of the soil, Dr Fatu-Forna Sesay with two kids. The Sesays have disclosed, with utmost excitement the prospect of making their final come back home after accomplishing the registration of Mama-Pikin Foundation and solidifying its base in Georgia, Atlanta. Concluding his chat with Awareness, Dr Sesay noted; "it is my hope that this story motivates the thousands of our fellow Sierra Leoneans scattered across the globe, to consider utilizing their skills in our beloved Sierra Leone".

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